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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Madison County Board of Supervisors passed a hospital transport policy on February 12, 2019.

The adopted policy was developed as a joint effort by the Madison County Rescue Squad and Madison County Department of Emergency Medical Services through several months of discussion and review by advisors, medical directors, policy makers, first responders and other stakeholders.

The goal of the policy is to provide the highest quality of emergency medical care to Madison County's residents and visitors and to leverage Madison County's highly qualified emergency medical services staff which is known for its high level of clinical proficiency.

According to County Administrator Jack Hobbs, "This policy clarifies that Madison County trusts its highly proficient first responders to make clinical decisions in medical emergencies. In addition to expedited and appropriate care for the individual on the first call, this policy facilitates a return of the ambulance crew to duty for the second and subsequent calls for service."

As always, Madison County thanks the members of its first responder (firemen, law enforcement, dispatch, emergency medical/rescue squad, emergency management and others) for their efforts to keep Madison's residents safe.

Information on Madison County can be found at www.madisonco.virginia.gov. For additional information, please contact Madison County Director of Emergency Medical Services Noah Hillstrom at nhillstrom@madisonco.virginia.gov.

The priority and goal of the Madison County Rescue Squad (MCRS) and Madison County Emergency Medical Services (MEMS) is to provide the best access and highest quality emergency care to all citizens and visitors of Madison County. To help support these priorities the Madison County Rescue Squad (MCRS) and Madison County Emergency Medical Services (MEMS) jointly developed and presented a hospital transport policy that was adopted by the Madison County Board of Supervisors on February 12, 2019.

There are many important factors to consider when determining the transport destination including hospital capability, transport distances, transport capability, and severity of the illness or injury. All citizens or visitors will be treated as having a medical emergency and would normally be transported to the closest appropriate emergency department. The “closest appropriate emergency department” is defined as the nearest medical facility with a recognized emergency department based upon mileage and/or anticipated travel time. Depending on the location of the emergency within Madison County, Novant Health System University of Virginia Culpeper Hospital and Sentara Martha Jefferson Free Standing are the closest Emergency Departments. As such, these will be the most frequent patient transport destinations.

Certain emergencies, as determined through detailed assessment of information available at the time of the emergency by the ambulance attendant or “Attendant in Charge”, require transport to a specialty resource center. The closest such facilities to Madison County are the University of Virginia Medical Center and Martha Jefferson Hospital located in Charlottesville, VA. Examples of emergencies requiring a specialty resource center include heart attacks, acute strokes, significant trauma, etc. If the Attendant in Charge determines the emergency meets specialty resource criteria, or if their clinical evaluation reveals other critical findings where the patient would be best served by a specialty center, the ambulance crew will provide transport to either the University of Virginia Medical Center or Martha Jefferson Hospital.

The policy is intended to ensure that patients receive care at the earliest and to facilitate a quicker “return to duty” for the ambulance crews so that they will be available for other calls for emergency response.

Madison County EMS Hospital Transport Policy Resolution #2019-3

Madison County ambulances will transport all patients to the closest appropriate emergency department based upon the medical assessment of the attendant in charge (AIC) as well as other EMS operational issues occurring at that time in the County. No patient, family member, friend, or physician (except authorized on-line medical control physicians) can instruct EMS personnel to disregard this policy.

Management

All patients who present to the Madison County EMS system will be treated as having a medical emergency. Thus, these patients require evaluation and treatment in the closest appropriate emergency department. Transporting the patient to the closest appropriate emergency department provides the patient the best care and provides Madison County residents and visitors the most appropriate access to EMS resources.

Closest Appropriate Emergency Department - Defined

The “closest appropriate emergency department” is defined as the closest medical facility with a recognized emergency department, based upon mileage and/or anticipated travel time. Depending on the location of the emergency within Madison County, either Novant Health System University of Virginia Culpeper Hospital or Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital Free Standing Emergency Department are the closest emergency departments.

Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital Free Standing Emergency Department at Proffit Road has clear diversion criteria and the following patients should not be taken to their facility based on direction from SMJH leadership:

1. 20 weeks or greater gestation pregnancy complaints
2. Stroke
3. ST segment myocardial infarction (MI)
4. Psychiatric patients with homicidal or suicidal ideation
5. Trauma patients meeting TJEMS criteria

Specialty Resource Center Determination

Certain emergencies require transport to a specialty resources center. The University of Virginia Medical Center or Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital are both considered the closest specialty resource centers to Madison County. Whereas most patients are best managed at the closest emergency department any patient determined by the AIC to need immediate specialty center services may be transported there directly.

Approved by the Madison County Board of Supervisors on February 12, 2019